

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BOSWELL, Leonard (Democrat)
Representative, 3rd District, Iowa
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Harrison County - 10 January 1934
Home: Davis City, Iowa
Marital status: Married (Dody) - 3 children
Religion: Mormon
Education: Graceland College, B.A., 1969
Military: US Army, 1956-78 (drafted as private, rose to Ltcol)
Profession: Farmer

Political: Defeated Mike Mahaffey (R) with 49.4% of the vote in the 1996 general election to succeed Rep Jim Lightfoot (R), who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Reelected in 1998 with 56.9% of the vote and in 2000 with 63%. Iowa Senate, 1985-97; president, 1992-97; sought Democratic nomination for US House, 1986; Democratic nominee for Lt gov, 1994. Won in 1996 with 49.4% of the vote; in 1998 with 56.9%; and in 2000 with 63%.

Rep Boswell, a moderate to conservative Democrat who joined the "Blue Dogs," was offered a seat on the Appropriations Cmte by the Republicans in an attempt to get him to switch parties. While he turned down the offer, he has made no secret of his desire to join the HAC. Felt well-suited for the assignment he did get on the Intelligence Cmte based on his experience in the military as an assault helicopter pilot in Vietnam and an instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Graduated first in his class from both the Fixed Wing helicopter and Army Aviation Flight schools. Earned numerous awards and decorations. His legislative priorities have been ensuring a strong and well-funded public education system, fiscal responsibility in government, keeping Iowa's small businesses and rural communities vital, crime prevention, and fighting for families.

In the 106th Congress, expressed support for intervention in Colombia; believed spending money there now is designed to preclude the need for a full-scale military intervention later. Regarding the capability to fight two major wars simultaneously, remarked "Reducing military readiness to less than two simultaneous conflicts shows a clear lack of foresight in dealing with foreign affairs." Commented that just because he and then-VP Al Gore both opposed the military getting more money than they need doesn't mean that they believe they shouldn't get additional funds. Agreed with the recommendation of veterans' groups of an additional \$3 billion over the budget for the VA.

Additional: Received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Bronze Stars for his military service. As a freshman in 1997, he was the oldest first-term Member.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

INTELLIGENCE
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE